

[George F. Blashek]

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Redfield, Georgia B.

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GEORGE F. BLASHEK

Established First Industrial Plants in Roswell

A Grist Mill in 1882, Planing Mill in 1892

And Ice Plant in 1906

Mr. George F. Blashek and his family came to New Mexico and settled in Las Vegas in 1880 where he was engaged for two years in a mill at that place.

He removed to Roswell in 1882 and established the first industrial plant - a grist mill for use of the town and adjacent community.

At the time of the coming of Mr. Blashek to this section of New Mexico, there was one store and postoffice, and a residence used for a hotel, both owned by Captain J. C. Lea, a blacksmith shop which was established by Rufus Dunnahoo in 1881 and a meat market opened by Patrick H. Boone in 1881. Some farms had been opened up and good crops

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of wheat and corn furnished grain for grinding the first years after the establishment of the grist mill.

Captain Joseph C. Lea who owned all of the land of the town, as far north as what is now East College Boulevard deeded to Mr. Blashek forty acres to be used for a mill site, on the north side of North Spring River, at what is now the corner of East College [Boulevard?] and Atkinson Avenue.

After the establishment of the grist mill, Mr. Blashek filed on an eighty acre homestead tract adjoining the mill site land on the north (now the north side of East College Boulevard) and extending as far west as the Santa Fe Railroad tracks, which is the southeast quarter, section 28, Township ten, Range 24 East.

On some of this land roses now bloom around the doorway of Frank and Pat Blashek (sons of Mr. and Mrs. Blashek) that were planted and carefully tended by them because of having been bought to Roswell in a covered wagon, by their friends the Chisum family in 1877. C18-[???

2

Mrs. Blashek, who was a typical pioneer wide and mother,, bravely over-came many obstacles and hardships of the new western country. She made a home for her family, planted and cultivated her flowers and her vegetable garden, raised chickens and turkeys, and was never too tired to dress her seven children and take them to the church services and Sunday School on Sundays. She died on Easter Sunday, March 26, 1899.

An ice plant was established and operated by Mr. Blashek in connection with his grist mill, from the year 1906 until the summer of 1919.

In 1891 or 1892 the first planing mill of Roswell was also established by Mr. Blashek on land near the grist mill.

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Mr. George H. Blashek was born in Austria and came to America with his parents when a young child. He was married at La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1878, his wife's given name being Anna, family name unknown. After his marriage he was engaged for two years farming, on a farm a few miles west of St. Louis, Missouri, from which place he moved to New Mexico in 1880.

Mr. and Mrs. Blashek were the parents of seven sons: Frank, Clay, Earnest, Robert, Patrick, Victor and Fred. Of the seven only two, Frank and Pat, are living at the present time.

Mr. Blashek was active in performance of his work of the grist mill until the time of his death January 17, 1932, at eighty-six years of age.

His assistance in mechanical and engineering work was valuable to many early settlers, in constructing intricate parts of machinery and farm implements. His ability to construct devices used in mill work, and other industrial establishments, was handed down to both of Mr. Blashek's sons, Frank and Pat, who are always ready to help a neighbor in adjustment of parts of engines and other machinery out of repair in their neighborhood.

They are highly respected and valued as friends and helpful neighbors in the community in which they live.

3

Sources of Information

Personal knowledge of the writer and Frank Blashek - son of George H. Blashek, Roswell, New Mexico